THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1855.

CONGRESS. The Senate transacted but little business of public interest.

The House voted twice for Speaker, but with no definite result. A proposition to elect a presiding officer by ballot met with but little favor, it having been laid on the table by a vote of two hundred and thirteen against seven. The time was principally occupied in debatemembers availing themselves of the opportunity presented for defining their positions.

### ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE-THE DEMOCRACY AND THE CONSERVA-TIVE KNOW-NOTHINGS.

The monotony of calling the roll with the view of electing a Speaker of the House, has been somewhat relieved for the last day or two by short and piquant speeches. On Tuesday a proposition was made by Mr. Walker, of Alabams, who represents the Mobile district, and who belongs to the Southern wing of the Knownothings, to the following effect:

"He called upon all conservative men, irrerespective of party, who were anxious, as he , to effect an organization and to preserve the great interests of the country, to meet in the hall at half-past seven o'clock for the purpose of having a conference, in order to devise some plan by which a conservative organization of the House might be had."

This call gave rise to an animated discus sion, in which a number of gentlemen participated, and in which some sharp but no rude remarks were made. For some time the discussion turned on the Pennsylvania elections. and was carried on by Pennsylvania members. The question discussed was the identity of Know-nothingism and Freesoilism in Pennsylvania. The Hon. J. Glancey Jones represented the Democratic side of the question in the most satisfactory manner. He showed himself as quick at repartee as he is forcible in argument. It was difficult to decide whether he excelled in asking or answering puzzling questions. But as we published the debate in our last is sue, it is needless to refer in detail to it here.

Our present purpose is to offer a few re marks in relation to the call which was made by the member from Alabama, on "all conser vative men, irrespective of party." As some doubt arose during the discussion in regard to the precise language employed by that gentleman, and in regard to the precise object which he had in view, he stated his object and repeated his language, as follows:

"What I did say was this-and, in repeating it, I beg the attention of the House to my words. and hope that they will be weighed properly That, so far as I was concerned, desiring, as I did, a proper and conservative organization of this House, and believing, as I did, that I was expressing the wishes of most of those who have thus far co-operated with me. I was willing, in the event of the House not organizing to-day, to meet in this hall this evening all the members of this House who are willing to abide by the existing laws upon the question of slavery, and are opposed to the further agitation of that question, here or elsewhere, and who are prepared to vote for the admission of any State into this Union, whether that State permits slavery in its constitution or not. These, I think, were my words."

Here was a distinct proposition for a mixed caucus of Democrats and conservative Knownothings, made with a view to a conservative organization.

of this proposition. That which denotes that of Representatives who will fight fanaticism to evident enough which impression is intended. the bitter end, and who will refuse alliance with any party that is not recognised as conservative in its character. This proposition, or call, is also highly complimentary to the Democratic party. True, it does not specifically and by name, call upon the Democrats to meet in conference, but it is easy to show that they and none others were intended by this proposition, which came from the Southern wing of the' families as soon as practicable; very many, Know-nothing party. Of course it could not re- nearly all, were there long before many of the fer to the Black Republicans and the Freesoilers. aid company had arrived. Objection is made Nor could it refer to the Northern wing of the to the Missourian of two weeks' residence, and Know-nothings, which is rankly Freesoil, with none to the member of the aid society of an a few exceptions, and has long since split off hour's residence. Who was the judge that the from the Southern members of that order. It Missourian was not an actual settler in two must have meant, and only meant, the National weeks' residence, and the member of the aid Democracy of the House, who have as one man stood up to the support of their gallant candidate, Colonel Richardson, and manfully resist made by the Post and copied by the Union. ed all the unsound elements arrayed against While we approve, in the main, the conclusions them. This is a tribute to the Democracy which caunot be without its effect upon the

There is, however, another aspect presented by this proposition to which we shall briefly address ourselves.

As the Democrats of the House far outthese things, then without caucus, call, or pro- tions, and Mr. Hunter, Chairman of the Composition, without parley, conference, or hesita- mittee on Finance. tion, they ought, as individuals to vote for the sound, conservative National Democrat who is offered to them in the person of Colonel

firmly cemented Democracy of the House, will for a moment dream of going into a mixed, own principles."

a qualified form, to co-operate with us. Their pride exacts conditions, but our integrity as a party forbids the idea of granting them. If whence the should derive soldiers, but whom of the two hundred thousand of eager and enrolled volunteers should be accepted; and hence it was that the citizen soldiers, in con-

they think, as they must think, that the Dem. VISIT OF THE AMOSKEAG VETERANS | junction with a small but most gallant, scienocratic party is right in regard to the organization of the House, if they cannot conscientiouly act with any other party and are helpless and hopeless by themselves, they ought to cast pride to the winds, and come up like men and co-operate with the Democracy, without demanding conditions or concessions. We fear that pride will prevail with them, and are disposed to believe that the debate which took place on Tuesday will drive them

No man knows what a day or an hour may bring forth; but the general, almost universal impression is, that organization is at present an

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE TO ORGANIZE

There are a great many people who hate the Democratic party, and who endeavor to hold it responsible for every bad thing that takes place in the world. All Abolitionists, all Freesoilers, all the advocates of isms, all unsound Whigs, and all unsound Know-nothings, equally abhor it. Why it is so, we will not stop to inquire, but certain it is that antagonistic as the several parties we have named are to each other, they are ever ready to unite their forces in order to defeat the Democracy. It is also certain that they endeavor to hold the happens in the political world.

The cry has been raised by the whole opposition press that the Democrats of the House of Representatives are responsible for the failure thus far to organize. Not only do unsound Whigs and Know-nothings join in this cry, but, unpleasant to say, even conservaive Whigs and Southern Know nothings lend heir emphasis to it.

That the Democrats cannot, by themselves elect a Speaker, is plain to all. That they will not, and ought not, either directly or indirectly aid in the election of a political antagonist, all Democrats at least will acknowledge. They are doing the country and the Constitution service when they prevent such an election, particularly when the candidate is altogether ectional, fanatical, and unsound in his senti-

But how are they responsible for the failure organize? They do not constitute a ma prity. If, as a member of Congress said the other day in some remarks he addressed to the House, the Democrats had one majority, the election would be made at once. The majority is against them, and surely the majority must. on all the principles of justice and right reasoning, be held responsible for the failure to or-

The Democracy cannot, for want of nume rical force, elect, but they can prevent an improper election. If it is intended to blame them for preventing the election of a Freesoiler, they are willing to take the blame.

## "THE PRESIDENT AND KANSAS." The Union copies from the Boston Post ar

many good points, but it is ambidextrous-it s a two-edged sword. It begins with exceptionable premises at variance with the conclusions arrived at. We object to the following:

"The emigrants sent out by the aid company in a majority of instances were actual bona fide settlers, determined to make Kansas their future home. The Missourians 'frequently vere mere transient sojourners, with no inten

The phraseology is insidious: "A majority of the aid company were bona fide settlers fremerous, the minority of the aid company, or there are others besides Democrats in the House the "frequenters" of the Missourians. It is

> Again: "The election of members of the first Territorial Legislature came on. It is confessed that the Missourians from the border counties rushed in and overpowered the actual

By whom is this confession made? We have seen the accounts stating that the Missourians went to locate with the intention of bringing their society was an actual settler the day his foot touched the soil? Yet such is the distinction of the Post, we differ from it in regard to the facts upon which it bases its premises.

### Re-election of Senator Mason. The Pennsylvania of the 18th inst. thu

speaks of the re-election of Senator Mason. "The State of Virginia, true to her old policy number the Southern Know-Nothings, and the of re-electing her Senators when they are willing few conservative Northern Know-Nothings to serve her again, recently elected Hon J. M. who act with them, and as the Democrats Mason to represent her for six years longer in are universally acknowledged to be sound and the United States Senate. Mr. Mason is one of conservative, is it not unreasonable to expect the ablest members of the Senate, and has been them to break up their organization, repudiate Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Rela- the hour to try it shall come. In periods of their name, throw away all discipline, sacrifice | tions for some time. It appears from the papers their chosen candidate, and go pell mell into a of the day, that he has again been selected for cancus with all who choose to meet them? We that distinguished post. Virginia sees the prothink it is unreasonable. The few cannot ex- priety of keeping her public servants on the think it is unreasonable. The few cannot expriety of keeping her public servants on the a constant source of peril to its institutions. pect the many to give up to them after such a high road of advancement. This system of They are engaged in the many useful pursuits fashion. If the Southern Know-Nothings think re-electing Senators gives States immense inthat the Democrats are conservative men, that fluence in the Councils of the Nation. This they are sound on the slavery question-that may be seen by adverting to the fact, that the question which severed the Northern and South- two Senators of Virginia at this time occupy ern members of the new order, and in one two of the most prominent posts of the Senate. moment destroyed its nationality-if they think Thus, Mr. Mason is Chairman of Foreign Rela-

The changing policy of the Northern and Hence it was, as you have suggested, that in Middle States, detracts greatly from the strength | the war of 1776, at Bunker Hill, at Benning and force of these States. The science of ton, at Monmouth, at Saratoga, at York-Legislation comes not by intuition. To be town, or at King's Mountain, there never Richardson.

Legislation comes not by intuition. To be ceased to flock citizen soldiers to repel invasion; that in the war of 1812, whether at master mind the diversified interest of a Nation, the river Thames, or at New Orleans, in the requires a long schooling in the public councils. North or in the South, determined and effecunnamed, uncertain cancus. As Mr. Jones said, It is therefore a prodigious error for these States tive armies were never wanting to the Union; "The Democratic party will meet in no caucus, to pass by men who are eminently qualified by chant, the mechanic, the lawyer, the physiexcept a caucus of their own party, upon their long experience to hold seats in the National cian, the statesman, emulously rushed to the Legislature, and send novices there to defend field, at the public call, in such numbers that We are glad to know that the conservative their State's multifarious claims, against the the question with my friend near me, then We are glad to know that the conservative members of the new order are willing even in well-trained legislative tacticians of the South. Secretary of War, (Gov. Marcy,) was not whence he should derive soldiers, but whom of

TO THE PRESIDENT. Colonel Potter, commanding the Veterans, addressed the President as follows:

Colouel Potter's Speech. Mr. PRESIDENT: Coming, as we do, from New Hampshire—the county of Hillsborough, glorious "Old Hillsborough," your home—we esent ourselves before you as your neighbor and friends, calling for friendly salutation and greeting on our pilgrimage to the tomb of the "Father of his Country." We call as veterans for what men can better claim that title than those who hail from the land of Blanchard, Goffe, Rodgers, Stark, the Pierces, father and sons, Miller, and McNeil-men whose deeds, whose names, shall be remembered as long as Lake George, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Princeton, Bennington, Saratoga, Monmouth, Yorktown, Niagara, Lundy's Lane, Contreras, Chepultepec—aye Mexico—shall have an existence in fact, in history, or in

This meeting is the incident of a lifetime To all of us it may be a page of deep-lined hisory. Its circumstances—the name of this orps, Amoskeag Veterans-are suggestive of, bring up memories of the past of vast interest and importance. The name is a word in the anguage of a people who once held sway over he entire territory of the central United States. This nation had its political system, its national ouncils, its kings, and its emperors. Yet, this people, in little more than two hundred years, has been, as it were, swept from the land with the besom of destruction, before the withering tread of the Anglo-Saxon. History, imperfect history, and the tradition of a few wandering Democracy responsible for everything bad that and scattered tribes, alone tell of their former, and now almost forgotten greatness.

A new race of men has succeeded them

Upon their ruins has risen this great Republic. Their history, together with the history of the ancient governments of Europe and Asia, eaches us that their fate may yet be ours. Distant, far distant, be that day! But should it come; should the time come when the sun political firmament, obscured by the murky clouds of anarchy and confusion, shall set in everlasting night; and where now is this glorious Constitution, where now is this glorious Confederacy; where now is this national, sub-stantial freedom, shall remain only their phantom semblance, or shattered fragments epend upon it. Mr. President, that history will note the fact that the men of Amoskeag were ound in solid phalanx, and with banners fly ing, doing noble battle for the law, the Consti tution, and the Union. Permit me, Mr. President, to introduce to you the Amoskeag Veterans, a corps of troops of which I glory in be

## The President's Speech.

The President replied, in substance.

Colonel: I recognise in your corps mem bers who were companions of my boyhood, and those who have been the constant and cherished friends of my mature years, and, notwithstanding the martial equipment and bearing of your e battalion, I am inclined to greef you and them rather as citizens than as soldiers, and rather as personal friends than either. presence and your words fill my mind and heart with thoughts and sentiments of home. Dear old county of Hillsborough! She has lways been full of good men and good deeds! Her broken, rugged territory-her true, steady, intelligent population—how familiar to me were they all for twenty years of my life! The leaping streams and the mountain scenery, so well known to my childhood, and so attractive still, are there yet, and will be when I return to article with the above caption, which contains New Hampshire to pass the decline of life in your midst, as I hope in the Providence of God to do, not without some degree of usefulness, but the fathers and mothers of that earlier period are there no longer. It is sad to know that the venerable men of the revolution, whom we were all accustomed to meet with such respect-may I not say affectionate reverencehave passed away, and with them the larger portion of those who served in the war of 1812. remember that so late as the year 1824, fourteen men who fought at Bunker Hill lived in the town of my birth, and on one occasion, at least, were all assembled around my father's table. but now I suppose not a single individual in the revolution still survives.

These men gave to the popular heart a tone which has descended to you, and how far your presence here to-day, in this graceful and honpotent influence no man may say. I think, me, who served in the war of 1812, will tell you that, when you were forming this organiation, they were reminded of companies called 'the alarm lists," which assembled and drilled in many parts of New Hampshire during that war, and which were made up of men who bore

he scars of the revolution. It is a proud reflection to me, and I am sure it is to you that you are from a county which was never found wanting when her sons were called to meet a foreign foe. You pursue your daily avocations within sight of the shaft which rises over the dust of the stern, strong soldier who, at Bennington, announced in advance. victory for the colonists or widowhood for Molly Stark, and you have shown that you are not insensible to the power of elevated association. You honor, by your organization, the memory of the gallant men who have served and honored not only our native country and our native State, but the whole country.

I welcome you as a type of that citizen soldiery which constitutes the military strength of the republic, manifested in every stage of its history. You are the fit representatives and the successors of the class of men who won our independence by the first war, who assured it by the second, and who have more recently conducted a successful war in a foreign country, emote from home resources.

The United States have never bad a large standing army, nor a large permanent military marine. Is the republic, therefore, feeble in a military sense? Far from it! The fact that we are not burdened by taxes for the support of an immense army and a vast navy, and that our fixed and ordinary force is apparently small, will add immensely to our strength when public tranquility, the strong hands and hold hearts of the nation are not withdrawn from the cultivation of the arts of peace, to become of life—in agriculture, in commerce, in the learned professions, in reclaiming this continent of ours to cultivation, to civilization, to freedom, and thereby carrying the flag and the fame of the Union to every sea and every clime. It is nevertheless true that our citizens, although peace-loving, and pursuing peaceful pursuits, are, as it were, "born to arms," and to the spirit of self-reliant courage, which teaches their exercise, and of patriotism, which animates their use in the cause of the country.

which as a nucleus they formed, nobly sustained their country's arms, and made every field a field of victory.

It is beautiful to see the energies of a mar-

tial people, with such capabilities and resources war, devoted to the arts of peace. It would be fearful to see them exerted in a great strug gle of arms. A nation, however, which car readily summon to the field five hundred thou sand brave, intelligent, hardy men, accustomed from boyhood to the saddle, and to the use of the rifle and the musket, is not in a condition to invite aggression by any supposed want of

ability to repel it.

I have detained you too long; but you will pardon these thoughts, which come to the mind spontaneously on an occasion like this. You are not unmindful of the dignity and importance of your position as citizen soldiers at a period when the United States have become one of the great powers hereafter to direct the destiny of man. The social position and elevated character of the members of this battalion, the respect universally accorded to them home, cannot fail to animate with a fresh impulse the volunteer militia of New Hampshire. I tender to you my acknowledgments for the service you are rendering our native State in this and in other respects; and I beg you to accept my cordial thanks for the gratification which your visit affords me person I shall hope to see each and all of you, before your departure, in a manner less formal than the present occasion will admit. Wishing you the highest degree of enjoyment you can have anticipated, I desire to avail myself of the privilege often enjayed before, of grasping you individually by the hand.

The following account of the visit of the Veterans" to Mount Vernon, and proceedings there, we take from the correspondence of the Baltimore Sun, of yesterday. It will be read with interest, while the day, and its association will long be cherished in the memories of the Stark Voterane "

At an early hour this morning President Pierce made a visit to the United States Hotel and paid his respects to his old friends and neighbors, the Amoskeag Stark Veterans. He also extended to them an invitation to dine with him and his Cabinet Ministers, at the Mansion, to morrow afternoon at four o'clock.
The invitation was respectfully declined, and a ocial party to-morrow afternoon substituted.

Our harbor has not looked so gay for a long time. The steamers and vessels displaying their national banners whilst other flags, burgees and pendants floated finely in the breeze, At half-past nine o'clock, the Veterans, with their celebrated band of music, flags, &c., took up the line of march in true military style for the steamer George Washington, under command of Captain Job Corson. They were also accompanied by Lieut. Col. Reilly, Major Key worth, Adjt. Peter F. Bacon, Surgeon Duhamel delegation from the President's Mounted Guard, Washington Light Infantry, National Grey, Scott Guards, German Yagers, and probably an hundred private citizens. On reaching the wharf such was the degree of inteusity manifested that the other beautiful steamer the Thomas Collyer, Captain Gedney, with private citizens, was brought into requisition and de-

spatched a little in advance. On the wharf the visitors and their associates were met and cordially welcomed by that venerable man, Col. George Washington Parke Custis, extending both hands with a cordial welcome to the metropolis of our common country. This scene was peculiarly affecting. Here advanced a band of New England's noblemen-gentlemen of education, quick discern-ment, wealth and influence. They are for the first time in their life's history about to tread the sacred soil of Mount Vernon, a portion of the Old Dominion. The people of the Middle States greeted them with every demonstration of kindness. At this point they are welcomed by the hearts and hands of sixty thousand people, and now, as they step on board the gay steamer, proudly to sail on the beautiful Potomac, they are approached, saluted, and wel-comed by one of the most venerated citizens. The relative and coadjutor of Washington. The North and the South are one, and we this day feel it in our heart of hearts.

Arriving at the Alexandria wharf, an color, to witness the Amoskeag Veterans; whilst landing the band played "Hail Columbia." The boat then proceeded to Fort Washington, and presence here to-day, in this graceful and hon-ored uniform, is the result of their unseen but Doodle." Upon landing the Veterans, together with the citizens, joined in the line of march wever, that members of your battalion, before and proceeded to visit the Fort-after arriving there Col. Potter gave orders to break ranks, and after spending half an hour in viewing the buildings, the Company returned to the boat, and resumed their journey to Mount Ver-The Captain as usual tolled his bell reaching the home of Washington, and the band struck up the solemn dirge of the "Dead March." The Company upon landing, formed in line, and marched up to gaze upon the place where rests the mortal remains of him who was the Father of his Country. The band then played "Washington's Grand March. on werethen drawn up in a line, and they marched past the tomb with heads un-

Col. Potter then addressed his battalion, and in his remarks alluded to the privilege of being permitted to gaze upon the place where rests the remains of him who was "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen." He dwelt upon his virtues, and remarked that he knew "no North, no South, no East,

Gen. Geo. W. P. Custis, the grand-son and only surviving relative of Gen. Washington, was then introduced to the Veterans, by Col. Potter. In the course of his remarks he said no man would go from this place without being a better man, a soldier and patriot.

He then referred to the battles of Lexington ncord, Charlestown, and said that all the honor belonged to New England. In the course of his remarks, he related many pleasing anecdotes, and was listened to with deep attention. The Company then marched to the old Homestead, and after registering their names, they partook of a handsome collation, prepared by our worthy townsman, John Petti-After this they returned to the boat bone. After this they returned to the boat highly pleased with their visit, and were soon safely back in Washington. The company enjoyed themselves finely, and the utmost good humor prevailed throughout the whole trip.

ADMIRAL BRUAT, commander of the French fleet in the Black sea, whose death off Messina was announced by the last steamer's papers, was but fifty nine years of age, and enjoyed : high reputation in the French navy. He was in Alsatian, born at Colenar, May 26th, 1796. educated at the Naval School of Brest, and in 1815 entered the Navy. In 1827, he became a lieutenant, and with that rank, commanded the orig Adventure at the blockads of Algiers. The brig ran aground and he and his crew were captured and imprisoned in Algiers until released at the taking of the city by the French. He was then tried by court martial for the loss of his vessel, but honorably acquitted. The next year he became a captain, and in 1843 was sent to the Marquesas Islands to establish the French protectorate there. Accomplishing this, he became Governor of the French Islands in the Pacific

Just received a very large assortment of Prayer Books and Bibles, in all kind of bindings; the best assortment, perhaps, to be found i

Also, a large assortment of English Books in tions on the same subjects.

R. FARNHAM,

# Congressional.

# THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION Senate-Tuesday, December 18, 1855.

Memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred, as follows:

By Mr. SUMNER: From J. S. Richardson asking an appropriation to make a practical experiment of his patent atmospheric telegraph in transmitting intelligence, mail matter, &c., under the direction of the Postmaster General.

By Mr. MASON: From Elizabeth V. Lomax, only surviving while of Cartin W. P. Linday.

only surviving child of Captain Wm. P. Lindsay, of Lee's legion of the Revolution, asking five years' full pay of a captain of dragoons, with in-

By Mr. PRATT: From Susan T. Lea adminis tratrix of James Maglennen, asking compensa-tion for property lost in the service of the United

States during the war of 1812. By Mr. JONES, of Iowa: From Jonas P. Levy asking a revision by Congress of the action of the First Comptroller of the Treasury upon the act for the relief of the petitioner. The petitioner requests Congress to call upon the Comptroller for all the documents in the case, including especially that to which he had been denied access. or which have been surreptitously suppressed. When the documents are produced and examined the petittoner believes that they will clearly establish all the grave charges which have been preferred, and that Congress will come to the conclusion that the dignity of Congress requires that the laws of Congress should be enforced against the ministerial officers of the Government, and that the petitioner is fully entitled to ample remuneration for the losses originally sustained, to indemnition for the losses originally sustained, to indemnification for the delays, expenses, and outrages to which he has been exposed by the illegal and oppressive conduct of the Comptroller.

Several memorials and accompanying papers

were withdrawn from the files, on motion of Sen-ators, for the purpose of being again referred to appropriate committees.

Several notices of bills relating to internal im-

provements were given.
Mr. CLAYTON submitted the following reso

lution:
Resolved, That there be paid out of the continuous the Lesse I Resolved, That there be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate to the Hon. Jesse D. Bright the difference between the amount now received by him and the compensation of Vice President, from the date of his election as President of the Senate pro tempore to the close of his service as such, according to the practice which has heretofore prevailed.

Mr. CLAYTON observed that the four last officers of the Senate had been paid in the manner presented by the resolution, and he presumed there could be no objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

sideration of the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to without a dissent

ng voice. Mr. BELL asked the Senate to take up a reso lution, submitted by him some days since, in re-lation to the reference of papers relating to pri-vate claims, as well as private bills on the calendar at its last session, to the Committee of Claims. An amendment had been offered by the Senator from Maine. (Mr. Hamlin,) which was with the original resolution. A suggestion had been made also by the Senator from Michigan that the safest Committee of Claims for its investigation, to which course he had no objection, and would

therefore make that motion.

Mr. FITZPATRICK adverted to the fact certain constituents of his having an interest in a claim for property lost in 1836, which had already received the favorable action of the Senate, and which might be prejudiced by being subjected to delay, if embraced in the resolution or amendment. On reflection, however, he believed it was a class of claims for the consideration of the Court of Claims, and he would make no objection to the

reference.
The resolution of Mr. Bell and the amendment of Mr. HAMLIN were referred to the

mittee of Claims.

And the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. WALKER rose to a personal explanation defending the Southern Know-nothings from the attacks of the Mobile Register, saying that they had not only been a target for the presses of the country, but they had been used here as "battle-dore and shuttlecock" by the Republicans on one side, and the Democrats on the other. The Democrats here, with obstinate party exclusiveness before the House assembled, had nominated their candidate and adopted resolutions which many of the more considerate of them admit was an insult and stigma on members on this floor. The facts on the opening of this contest, had thrown them-selves into the ranks of the Democrats, the result would have been a Freesoil organization. They have prevented it. He denied that the Democratic party is a national party, and claimed nationality for the American party. Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania,

State, instead of being represented by six Na tional Democratic votes to-day, would have had seventeen, had it not been for the Know-nothings, who were there understood to be perfectly syn onymous with Freesoilers. The gentleman cer tainly did not mean to impute to him, who offered the resolution in caucus, an intention to insult any individual or class. Democracy stands on what they believed to be in principle without com-

Mr. ALLISON endorsed the idea of his colleague, who is a National man. Had it not been for the fact that the people of Pennsylvania con-demned the action of the last Congress, there would now be seventeen Democrats of that State on this floor. But the Freesoil and Know nothing parties united, and Pennsylvania was now repre-sented by a majority of members who condemned the Nebraska bill. Mr. WALKER replied, saying, in course of his

remarks, that the adoption of the resolution by the Democratic caucus shows what by no mean is uncommon—the proneness of all men to con-found principles with party, seeming to forget that the two are essentially different. If no organization was effected to day, Mr. Walker said he would be willing to meet in the Walker said he would be willing to meet in the Hall this evening with those in favor of abiding by the existing laws on the subject of slavery, and admitting new States whether or not their Constitutions recognize slavery, to confer and devise a plan for organization. In this he believed he expressed the views of a majority of those with whom he need.

with whom he acted.

Mr. WASHBURN, of Maine, said there was only one true national party, and that is the one voting for Mr. Banks. [Laughter.] The Democrats represent a section—nothing else and noth-ing better. The gentleman from Alabama had shown that he belongs to a party as sectional as that, for he admitted that he is controlled by the same ideas, principles, and thoughts as the Demo-cratic party, which is in favor of the Nebraska and Kansas bill, and which makes everything subservient to the extension and perpetuation of the divinity of human bondage.

Mr. ORR asked Mr. WASHBURN when he lected to Congress?
Mr. WASHBURN. Year before last.

Mr. ORR. Has not your party been since defeated, and the Democrats triumphed?

Mr. WASHBURN explained the position o parties in Maine, declaring that the leading issue was the liquor law. [Laughter.] Mr. ORR. I am to understand, then, that the

people of Maine like whisky better than freedom [Applause, and wild outbursts of laughter] ask another question—was you elected by Know othings?
Mr. WASHBURN. I am not aware that I

vas, not being a member of the order.

[The colloquy between these gentlemen was continued for some time.] Mr. CAMPBELL, of Pennsylvnia, could

his colleague, Mr. Jones, that he would find gen-tlemen here not afraid of the appellation of Know-nothings, and argued to show that the American nothings, and argued to show that the American party is entirely distinct from the Freesoil party, and voted in Pennsylvania for Mr. Nicholson as their candidate for Canal Commissioner. He and his friends were now voting for Mr. Banks for Speaker, because no man stands fairer on the American records than he. They consider Kansas-Nebraska an open question.

Messrs. JONES and CAMPBELL, of Pennsylvania activations in the Messrs.

sylvania, entered into a long dialogue about that State's politics, keeping up a spirited fire, involving personal explanations.
Mr. WASHBURNE, of Illinois, asked Mr. JONES,

whether he did not consider Americanism and Kow Nothingism the same thing? Mr. JONES. No! I am an American, but have nothing to do with Know-Nothingism, [laughter] which bodes no good to the country. Mr. WASHBURNE. I understand the gentleman to say that the Democratic caucus platform, as he explains it, offers no bar to Southern Know-Nothings and Democrats coming together?

Mr. JONES. We will not take one plank from

our plattorm. Our arms, however, are open to every man differing from us so soon as he repu-

ates his heresies.

Mr. WASHBURNE, in the course of his re-

would go into such a meeting as that to which they had this morning been politely invited by the gentleman from Alabama? (Mr. WALKER.) Mr. ORR. We will take that into considera-

Mr. JONES. The Democrats will meet in

Clerk's desk, declaimed spiritedly n favor of free-dom, and the building the Republican Church up-on a rock that the waves of hell shall not prevail

ngainst it.
Mr. LETCHER called Mr. Gippings' attention

to the resolution offered by the latter and adopted in a Republican meeting, insisting that a majority of Freesoilers be placed upon the standing com-mittees, and asking various questions concern-

ing it.
Mr. GIDDINGS remarked that he understood every Northern man to be pledged to that doc-

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, said no such reso

Mr. DANKS desired to say that it any saturation was adopted it was not tendered to him for approval. Nobody had ask him for pledges.

Mr. GIDDINGS was frequently interrupted, answering various interrogations from all quar-

ws. [Lively times and great confusion.]
wr. HUMPHREY MARSHALL analyzed the

Democratic party, showing its discordant ele-ments; the question of squatter sovereignty call-ing forth Mr. JONES, of Pennsylvania, in expla-nation—he claimed nationality for his party, which like the Democratic party, have no terms of com-

promise to offer or accept. They ask no quarter and regard no men as Americans except those who stand on the Philadelphia platform. He was frequently interrupted by applause from his friends, and was listened to with marked attention.

Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, obtained the floor, and the House distance.

Mr. JONES. The Democrats will need in caucus, with none but those standing on that party's well settled principles.

Mr. ALLISON, participating in the controversy raised by his two colleagues, said that the majority of the members of Congress from Pennsylvania were elected as opponents of the Nebraska bill, that being the great issue in the late election.

Mr. ETHRIDGE thought the House needed re-

Position and views of the American party of New York, and, at the conclusion of his remarks, offered a resolution, which, he said, if adopted, would secure a speedy organization of the House. It was read as follows:

Resolved, That in case no Speaker shall be chosen on or before the sixty-fifth viva voce vote, the House shall immediately thereafter proceed to an election by ballot.

Mr. MACE moved to lay the resolution on the table; and the question was decided in the affirm ative. Yeas 213, nays 7—the latter being Messrs.

Ball, Bishor, Broom, Cullen, Evans, Pennington, and Whitney.

Mr. CADWALLADER congrafulated the country on this result, showing an almost unanimous

on and views of the American party of Nev

As much had been said as the country could digest in two days. [Laughter,] and he trusted the House would now adjourn.

Cries of "No! no!" and " call the roll."

Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, asked Mr. Campbell, of Pennsylvania, whether Mr. Banks had cut himself aloof from the American party.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Don't know.

Mr. CAMPBELL denied that Mr. Banks had withdrawn from that party. The Convention withdrawn from that party. The Convention which nominated Rockwell was called by the American party.

Mr. SMITH defined his position, condemning Freesoilism, approving of the foreign feature of Americanism, and declaring himself a national Mr. GIDDINGS, placing himself in front of the

Mr. FULLER, of Pennsylvania, having

erally expressed themselves satisfied with Mr. Foller's position. Mr. BELL was not, being under a misappreution was a test for him.

Mr. GIDDINGS exclaimed, "God forgive me for voting for a man who was not in heart and conscience with it."

Mr. BANKS desired to say that if any such res-

Senate-Wednesday, December 19, 1855. PETITIONS PRESENTED, EIC. Mr. CLAYTON presented several me

all praying indemnity for spoliations committed by the French prior to 1800. In presenting these memorials, Mr. C. said that he should not move their reference to any committee, but would suf-fer them to lie on the table for the present. He desired, however, to avail himself of this oppor-tunity to make a single remark. The veto message of the President came in at so late an hour of the last session, that no opportunity was afford-ed for a full discussion of it. It was one which he ed for a full discussion of it. It was one which he was exceedingly anxious to discuss, and in reference to which he would say now, that the single id a upon which the whole message was predicated was an error—an error of fact. The message proceeded on the ground that the claims of these petitioners were paid under the treaty of Louisiana of 1803. The whole question was thus reduced to a question of fact. If it was true that Louisiana of 1803. The whole question was thus reduced to a question of fact. If it was true that these claims had been paid under that treaty, there ought to be an end of them. If, on the other hand, it was not true, and if that was the only ground upon which the President based his veto message, the claims ought to be paid. When the veto message came in at the last session, he was conscious of the fact that there existed in the Department of State testimony which would consider the fact. State testimony which would completely refute the idea entertained by the President, that these claims had been paid under the treaty of 1802. There were to be found the names of all the there were also the names of all who claimed in-demnity. The two lists had since been published; demnity. The two lists and since been published; and it appears that not a single one of those who ask for indemnity from this Government on account of these spoliations is included in the number of those who were paid under the treaty. He merely rose to make this remark; and at some future day he should call up these petitions for the

purpose of considering the subject more fully.

The memorials were laid on the table.

Mr. RUSK presented the petition of James
Harrington, a laboreron the Smithsonian grounds,
praying to be allowed extra compensation; which

was referred to the Committee on Claims.

Mr. FISH presented the memorial of Captain
John B. Montgomery, of the United States Navy,
praying to be released from his liability for an
unpaid balance of public money entrusted to him
for recruiting purposes, and lost by the failure of
the bank in which it was deposited; which was
referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. CRITTENDEN presented the memorial
of Uriah P. Levy, late Captain in the Navy of
the United States, complaining of the action of the United States, complaining of the action of the Naval Board-constituted under the act of Con-

gress of February 28, 1855; which was referred to he Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. BRODHEAD presented a similiar mem ial from Peter Wager, late a master in the United States Navy; which was refered to the same

RESOLUTION ADOPTED. Mr. FOOT presented the following resolution,

Mr. FOO'l presented the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Pensions be directed to inquire into the expediency of extending the benefits of the existing pension laws to the surviving officers and soldiers of the war of 1512, and to the widows and minor children of hose who are deceased. RESOLUTION SUBMITTED.

Mr. JONES of Tennessee submitted the following resolution, and asked its immediate consider

ion: Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy directed to furnish the Scuate with a copy of the proceedings of the Board of Navy Officers appointed under an act of Congress passed on the 28th day of February, 1855, entitled "an act to promote the efficiency of the Navy," embracing such charges as have been preferred against the several officers of the Navy who have been dis-missed from the public service or placed on the

considered in executive session; otherwise great injury might be done to many persons whose con-

been under consideration by the Nava Mr. BUTLER concurred in the same opinion The Senate went into executive session, and

House of Rep resentatives. Mr. THORINGTON withdrew the resolut which he offered yesterday, providing for the election of a Speaker by a plurality vote. He did this to accommodate gentlemen who had expressed a desire to again vote for Speaker, viva voce. It was his intention to renew the resolution to-

after some time adjourned.

to the floor on that proposition, said there were some points in the discussion of yesterday to some points in the discussion of yesterday to which he wished to reply, and particularly to respond to the gentleman from Kentucky, (Mr. HUMPHERY MARSHALL,) who proposed to read out of the American party every member of this body who was not willing to come hither with a padlock on his tongue. He was willing to meet the gentleman, agreeing as he did with him on the material points of Americanism, on the one hand, and the unbroken phalanx of Nebraska men on the other. He desired to throw no obstacle in the other. He desired to throw no obstacle is the way of an organization, and trusted the House would now proceed to the election of a Speaker The roll was called, and the following an nonneed as the result;

Mr. Banks	
Richardson	g
Fuller	13
Leiter	
Jewett Williams	
Orr	
Foster	
roster	
Whole number of votes	
Necessary to a choice	u

Mr. CADWALLADER congrafulated the country on this result, showing an almost unanimous condemnation of the principle of secret voting adopted by the Know-nothings.

Several gentlemen, during the proceedings, explained their positions, among them

Mr. FULLER, of Pennsylvania, who said, in the course of his remarks, that had he been in the last Congress, he should have opposed the territorial legislation, but, as things were, he should not disturb them. He would vote for the admission of Kansas into the Union with or without slavery, as the people of the Territory should prefer.

Mr. TODD said if he had known such were the views of Mr. Fuller, he should have suffered his

Mr. TODD said if he had known such were the views of Mr. Fuller, he should have suffered his right hand to wither before he voted for him.

Mr. KELLY replied to his colleague, Mr. Whitner, saying, the latter would not have been elected, had it not been for the unfortunate division in the New Yerk democracy; and, further, that the basis of the American party in that State was Freezonling.

vote against a proposition to restore the Missouri
restriction, heing in favor of arresting agitation on
the slavery question
Messrs. LAKE, WALKER, and READY, sev-

Mr. BELL was not, being under a misapprehension as to that gentleman's views, and therefore would vote for Mr. Banks.

Mr. CAMPBELL of Kentucky vindicated the American party, and condemned the trions, particularly the "Black Republicans."

The gentlemen named in the foregoing notice of the proceedings were applauded from time to time, and occasionally there were hisses. Much confusion, now and then prevailed.

After further proceedings, the result of another vote was announced; namely:

for Mr.	Banks	
	Richardson	75
	Fuller	34
	Leiter	2
	D. D. Campbell	1
	Foster	1
	Pennington	2
	S. S Marshall	1
	Williams	1
	Orr	1
	e number of votes	
Names	surv to a choice	119

Mr. NICHOLS called attention to the fact that there had been not only indecorous but indecent manifestations in the galleries; some of the per-sons there having indulged in hisses and applause. Mr. JONES of Tennessee thought members themselves ought to set a better example. He The House, in confusion, adjourned.

Important from the U. S. North Pacific Exploring Expedition. U. S. SHIP VINCENNES, N. Pacific Exploring, Expedition San

When off the coast of Kamschatka, with Maury's line and Brooke's lead, bottom was obtained from a depth of 1,700 fathoms. The specimen was immediately put under a microscope of 500 linear, and there were seen infusoria that were probably alive before being relieved of the enormous pressure at that depth. Many of them were fresh and clear, with the central brown discoloration which indicates the animate or recently animate condition of the vital organs.

A doubt was expressed as to their coming from the bottom of the sea. It was said that they came from the water through which the instrument passed on the way up. Fortunately the contrivance by which the specimens were received, though very simple, possessed the advantage of taking up the sediment and preserving it in tact. The bands of four goosequills, open at both extremities, were inserted in the end of the iron rod which pierces the bottom; a small valve permitted the water to flow through them as they went down, but it closed as they came up. These quills were found to be packed with the tenacious sediment in apparently the same co wiped perfectly dry, cut open, and the middle portion, plastic and adhesive as the clay ready for the potter, was taken out and examined— the infusoria presented the same appearance, of

vitality. In order that microscopists of eminence may have reliable grounds upon which to base thei opinions, as to the living condition of these infusoria at the time of their capture, the quill bands were corked at each end, and at the suggestion of a naturalist, put in vials of alco-hol, and very soon everything relating to the matter will be forwarded to the United States, and the originator of this great system of oceanic sounding will have a new link, with which to strengthen the great chain of facts, which have, by his power of generalization, been rendered subservient to commerce and to science. Specimens from 2,700 fathoms have also been obtained, but, at that time the contri-

vance of the goose-quills had not been applied.

19th October. The Hancock, steamer, arrived last night—excellent results. She brings in the surveying line.

Commodore Rogers has not missed any op portunity of getting observations or of making experiments, so the expedition has not only saved itself, but has exceeded the sanguine expectations of its warmest friends.

The conduct of Commodore Rogers in Ja

pan, in connection with the misunderstood treaty, has been highly approved by those who through the Americans concerned, have become acquainted with the circumstances.

Mr. BRODHEAD suggested the propriety of allowing the resolution to lie over a few days, in consequence of the absence of the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, (Mr. Mallory.)

Mr. JONES made no objection to the course. Mr. CLAYTON thought the subject ought to be considered in executive session; otherwise to the control of the course of the chairman of the Caroline Foote, from that country, sold at an immense profit. A vessel is now about to sail for Simoda. English men-of-war are lying here, Russians necessarily fear to enter the control of the country. at once. - Evening Post.

Further from Mexico.

The New Orleans papers have late news from Mexico, showing that the conspiracy lately discovered had for its object the overthrow of the present Government, and the elevation of the present Government, and the elevation of General Uraga to the Presidency. The plot was a pretty extensive one, and had adherents at Puebla, Culican and San Miguel de Alente. Uraga had been arrested and imprisoned, but subsequently made his eacape while being taken to the capital. The other leading spirits in the movement are Colonel Osollo, and the famous priest Miranda, who have also been arrested.

The papers discovered by the officers of the government disclose in full the plans of Uraga and his confederates. No particular objection to Alvarez is urged, except that he is old, and lacks the energy, as well as the proper experience in State affairs, to govern.

The Constitution of 1824 was to be revived, the National Guard abolished, and a perma-

The Constitution of 1824 was to be revived, the National Guard abolished, and a permanent army of 30,000 men raised. The church was to be respected in all her privileges and rights of property, and it was clearly intimated that these newspapers which have been thundering away against the clergy were to be annihilated. The Bishop of San Luis was at the head of one of the revolutionary clubs formed in that city

in that city. The papers are filled with rumors of disaffec tion in various parts of the country, and it appears that the clergy, fearing perhaps a curtailment of their immunities by the government of Alvarez, are mixed up to a considerable extent in the new movement.

Our minister, Mr. Godsden, had written a letter to Vidaurri, denouncing the recent inva-

sion from Texas, and pronouncing Captair Callaghan and his men a band of vandals.